



IHO Update

Bi-weekly News for Hospice Professionals in Iowa

February 8, 2008

1. IHO Welcomes New Staff Member

Stacey Nay has joined the staff at IHO as director, education services. Stacey is the new contact for the IHO Update, and will be working on IHO meetings and events. Stacey comes to IHO with a strong association background, having served both the Iowa Pork Producers Association and the Iowa Association of School Boards, and she most recently was a meeting planner at Principal Financial Group.

Stacey may be reached by phone at 515.243.1046, ext 309 or by email at nays@ihaonline.org.

2. 2008 IHO Legislative Day

Legislative Day is an important grassroots event for hospice professionals and volunteers. This is an opportunity to meet with your legislators from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Iowa State Capitol. Participants attending Legislative Day are encouraged to first meet at the IHO Offices at 100 E. Grand Avenue for an issue briefing from 10:30 to 11:10 a.m. Attendees will then go as a group to the Capitol.

To maximize your experience at Legislative Day, please contact your legislator now to let them know you're coming. This will allow your legislators to plan ahead for your visit. Not sure who your legislators are? Go to the Iowa General Assembly web site: www.legis.state.ia.us Legislator email addresses also are available at www.iowahospice.org.

For more information regarding IHO Legislative Day, please contact Shannon Strickler or Becky Anthony at 515.243.1046.

Go to <http://www.iowahospice.org/advocacylegis/default.shtml> for a link to register to attend Legislative Day.

3. 2008 Social Work Peer Group Conference Agenda Set

Mark your calendar now to attend the hospice social worker's conference Friday, March 21 at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames. The spring conference will focus on two issues of importance to social workers in the hospice setting: ethics and attitude. N. Joel Fry, MSW, LISW will explain why ethical considerations are important to the social worker's role in end-of-life care, how to relate ethics to everyday and end-of-life care, and how to know when your own ethics are blurred. Fry will also discuss why workplace negativity exists, help build an understanding of the social worker's responsibility in dealing with a negative workplace environment, and share some tools to combat workplace negativity.

Fry earned his master's in social work and a certificate in aging studies from the University of Iowa School of Social Work. He was a social worker with Hospice of Central Iowa from 1999-2001, when he was promoted to metro team director. As director, Fry supervised nearly 30 clinicians. In 2006, Fry joined Weatherbee Resources where he provides a wide range of consultative services and education regarding hospice and palliative care topics. He is also president of Team Restoration Ministries.

Online registration is available now. Go to www.iowahospice.org for more information.

4. CMS Home Health, Hospice and DME Open Door Forum Scheduled

The next CMS Home Health, Hospice & DME Open Door Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2008. The conference will begin at 1:00 p.m. Central time.

To participate by phone, dial: 1-800-837-1935 and reference conference ID: 18794954. If you're unable to participate, "Encore" is an audio recording of this call that can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering the conference id (18794954), beginning 2 hours after the call has ended. The recording expires after 3 business days.

For Forum Schedule updates, Listserv registration and Frequently Asked Questions visit the CMS Web site at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/OpenDoorForums/>.

5. IHO / NHPCO Capitol Hill Day - Wednesday, April 9

IHO will again be organizing Capitol Hill visits in April. If you are planning to attend the NHPCO Management and Leadership Conference (MLC) in April and are interested in joining other IHO members, please contact Crystal Peters at IHO at 515/243-1046, ext 331 or via email at petersc@ihaonline.org at your earliest convenience.

Each year IHO arranges congressional visits during this event. We invite all Iowa attendees to participate. Capitol Hill Day is April 9. NHPCO has a public policy forum set for the morning and IHO will be working to schedule visits following the forum.

NHPCO will be providing free Metrorail passes if you check the box (where indicated) on your MLC registration form to receive a free pass. It is the most direct and efficient way to get to Capitol Hill.

NHPCO will also be holding a Capitol Hill Reception Wednesday evening. The Capitol Hill Reception takes place from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. The reception will be open to registered MLC attendees and hopes to also attract senate and congressional delegates to this social gathering. Again, please check the box (where indicated) on your MLC registration form to receive a free Metrorail pass.

6. CMS Announces Change to Reporting Instructions

The following article was revised on January 24, 2008 to add references to related Change Requests (CRs) 5567 (Reporting of Additional Date to Describe Services on Hospice Claims) and CR5745 (Billing Instructions Regarding Payment for Hospice Care Based on Location Where Care is Furnished).

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5245.pdf>

7. End-of-Life Coalition Activities

IHO has applied to be the State Liaison for the National Healthcare Decisions Day which is a collaborative effort of national, state, and community organizations committed to ensuring that all adults with decision-making capacity in the United States have the information and opportunity to communicate and document their healthcare decisions. April 16, 2008 has been designated for this purpose.

Frances Hoffman will be coordinating activities for this event. Look for additional materials in the upcoming month.

In addition to the NHDD, the Coalition is sponsoring legislation to allow communities to pilot a Physician Order for Scope of Treatment that will translate advance directives into physician orders. An initial form has been drafted by a group of health care providers and stakeholders in Cedar Rapids and was reviewed at the EOL Coalition meeting on January 8. Legislative language is currently being drafted.

8. Quality Benchmarking Project

Members of IHO have completed the pilot study for benchmarking measures related to pain management. Recommendations made in November of 2007 are now being implemented. All IHO members are encouraged to contact Frances Hoffman with questions or for

assistance in implementing these measures. She can be reached at 641-380-0342 or hoffmanf@netconx.net.

Two questions that are currently being pursued related to 1) how hospice inpatient units should account for staffing, visits, and census; and 2) what definition to use for falls with injury. The printed definition indicates intervention by professionals while Martha Tecca had advised intervention by family or professionals. Once there is resolution to these questions, the information will be included in *IHO Update*.

9. Quality Partners Program – Iowa Style

All IHO members will have an opportunity to participate in a series of monthly meetings focused on the 10 elements of the NHPCO Quality Partners Assessment. Frances Hoffman will be facilitating these monthly conference calls. Watch for further details in an upcoming *IHO Update*.

10. District Meetings

Just a reminder that district meetings may be listed in the *IHO Update*. Please forward meeting date, time and location to Stacey Nay at nays@ihaonline.org.

11. Save the Date

Be sure to mark your calendars now to attend the IHO Fall Conference to be held November 18 and 19, 2008 at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus in Ames.

12. Hospice News Network – Notes

- The University of Illinois-Chicago College of Nursing has received a \$2.4 million National Institute of Nursing grant to create a center “focused on the study of the end-of-life transition.” Studies led by professionals from various UIC colleges will center on “patients with advanced heart failure, oral health problems in terminally ill cancer patients, suicide prevention and end-of-life complications for patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities.” (*Chicago Flame*, 1/28)
- The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare has convened the Pediatric Palliative and Hospice Care Task Force to “examine issues surrounding supportive care for children with life-limiting and life-threatening diagnoses.” The Task Force will “ultimately publish a report that will identify challenges Pennsylvania’s children and

their families encounter when searching for and receiving care at the end of life, while simultaneously developing recommendations that will resolve those challenges.”
(*Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare website*)

- Telling a child that a parent has cancer is a “terrifying task,” but there is some help available. Kimmie Cares (www.kimmiecares.com), a service of Partners for a Cure Foundation, offers resources, including dolls with removable hair and bandannas to help children understand chemotherapy. Reprints from *Cancer in the Family: Helping Children Cope With a Parent’s Illness* are online at an American Cancer Society website at [www.cancer.org/common/images/bookstore/Cancer in the Family.pdf](http://www.cancer.org/common/images/bookstore/Cancer_in_the_Family.pdf). (*CNN Website*, 1/28)
- *Improving Care for the End of Life: A Sourcebook for Health Care Managers and Clinicians*, by Joanne Lynn, *et al*, is reviewed in the current *JAMA*. According to the reviewer, “This volume provides busy front-line clinicians and case managers with abundant resources for tangible contributions to the well-being of patients who are confronting the end of life. But given the fact that life itself is a terminal condition, the book becomes essential reading, not only for patients and their caregivers, but for all who, sooner or later, whether they like to think of it or not, might require the care of dedicated health care professionals.” (*JAMA*, 2008;299(4):462)

HNN is sponsored by Glatfelter Insurance Group that provides property and liability insurance for hospices and home healthcare agencies through their Hospice and Community Care Insurance Services division. Ask your insurance agent to visit their website at www.hccis.com.

13. Member News

Hospice with Heart is pleased to announce that renovations on the Hospice House in Glenwood will begin in April, 2008. The eight bed facility, consisting of all private rooms and serving southwest Iowa, plans to open its doors July 1, 2008.

14. Seeking Employment in Hospice

Pastor with 32 years of hospice-related chaplaincy experience seeks to relocate in Iowa this spring to be near daughter expecting first child and is seeking full-time employment as a hospice chaplain. Three CPE's under Dr. Elizabeth Kubler Ross while in seminary and ordained in 1970. Candidate is in good standing with national Lutheran church body and spouse is LISW and has worked for hospice for eight years. Please request resume and correspondence by contacting candidate at phanzen280@aol.com or call 740-323-3431.